U.S. Senators Introduce Resolution Disapproving EPA's Endangerment Finding on Greenhouse Gases

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Ever since the election of Senator-Elect Scott Brown in Massachusetts (and the loss of the Democratic supermajority in the Senate), people have been asking if climate change legislation will be passed by Congress anytime soon. According to <u>a recent column in the Chicago Tribune</u>, even the chief executive of Exelon Corp. "admitted last week that his cherished cap-and-trade plan for cutting carbon emissions has encountered 'serious trouble.'

<u>As I have reported on this blog</u>, U.S. EPA may decide to implement a plan by itself, based on its endangerment finding that greenhouse gases pose a threat to human health and welfare. However, to block such a plan by EPA, several senators recently introduced a resolution, <u>S.J. Res. 26</u>, to disapprove the endangerment finding:

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the endangerment finding and the cause or contribute findings for greenhouse gases under section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act (published at 74 Fed. Reg. 66496 (December 15, 2009)), and such rule shall have no force or effect."

The resolution was introduced by Senator Lisa Murkowski (Republican-Alaska) and has 39 co-sponsors including two Democrats (Senators Ben Nelson from Nebraska and Mary Landrieu from Louisiana).

Stay tuned to the Illinois Environmental Law Blog for more news and developments.